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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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Stalin Chemical Combine¹

1. The Stalin Chemical Combine was located in the eastern part of Dimitrovgrad (N 42-05, E 25-35). The Dimitrovgrad-Svilengrad (N 41-46, E 26-12) rail line ran south of the plant while the Vulko Chervenkov Thermo-Electric Power Station was located to the north. It was generally known by the population of Dimitrovgrad that this combine produced fertilizers for agriculture, acids, and also many products used for military purposes, such as material for gases and explosives. Source was told that this plant could be fully converted to war production within 24 hours in case of war.
2. The plant area, which was 1,000 m. x 2,000 m., consisted of at least 150 buildings, some of which were two stories high; other buildings were only one story high aboveground but had one story underground. Source does not know the actual number of workers at this plant but estimates the figure to be 3,500 to 4,000.
3. The plant was being expanded lengthwise to the east and, according to the Five-Year-Plan, was to be enlarged to one third its present size. The plant was supplied with electricity by the Vulko Chervenkov Thermo-Electric Power Station and with water from special pumping stations located along the Maritsa River, northeast of the plant. All coal was supplied from the Maritsa Basin and from Pernik (N 42-36, E 23-03). There were six large gas tanks, about 25 m. in diameter, in the plant area.
4. The entire plant was guarded by the security forces (vutreshni voyski) which were called "baykaltsi"; 7.62mm DShK antiaircraft guns were located on the roofs of some of the buildings. The plant workers, who lived in the Tolbukhin District of Dimitrovgrad, were restricted to their own shops during working hours.

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Vulko Chervenkov TETs (Toplo Elektro Tsentrala) Thermo-Electric Power Station (formerly TETs Maritsa #3) 1

5. This power station was also located in the eastern part of Dimitrovgrad. The Stalin Chemical Combine was on the south while the Maritsa River was on the north. The plant area was 1,500 m. long and 700 to 800 m. wide and consisted of about 10 buildings. The station, which had some 500 to 600 employees, produced electrical energy primarily for the Stalin Chemical Combine. It had only two boilers in operation, but two others were under construction. The fuel supply workshop, the chemical water filtration plant, the smoke filtration plant, the cooling tower, and the chimney were adapted for four boilers. By 1957 at the latest, it was planned that the station would be able to operate on all four boilers.
6. Coal used by the station was transported by train from the Maritsa Basin. However, a cable-car system was to be constructed to run directly between the station and the Mlada Gwardiya coal mines in the northeastern part of Dimitrovgrad. Water was supplied by the pumping stations along the Maritsa River. This power station was equipped to operate with both coal and fuel oil (mazut).
7. The station was guarded by baykaltsi at 11 guard posts; 7.62 mm DShK antiaircraft guns were mounted on the roofs of the plant's buildings. There was a large underground shelter for the workers inside the fenced area. This shelter was located in the western part of the plant area.

Vulkan Asbestos Cement Plant (Azbesto Tsimentoviya Zavod Vulkan)

8. The Vulkan Asbestos Cement Plant was located in the northwestern part of the city. Its one large building and three or four warehouses occupied an area of about 1,500 m. x 550 m. This plant produced cement for construction purposes and also the cement needed by the plant itself. The plant was bordered on the north by the Marinovo District of Dimitrovgrad, on the west by the Internit Plant, on the south by the Maritsa River, and on the north by the coal mines of the Maritsa North Basin.
9. Three boilers were in operation and a fourth was under construction. Stone was transported to the plant by means of a cable car connected to the Maritsa quarry; coal was brought in from the mines north of the quarry. Source does not know how many workers were employed by the plant.

Internit Plant (Internitoviya Zavod)

10. This plant, which produced "internit" roofing materials, shingles, etc., occupied an area of approximately 1,000 m. x 350 m.; it was located in the northwestern part of Dimitrovgrad. The Vulkan Asbestos Cement Plant was east of this plant, the Maritsa Basin on the north, the Maritsa River on the south, and the village of Chernokonevo and the Stara Zagora rail line on the west. The plant area contained one large two-story building which was divided into individual workshops. Source does not know how many workers were employed at the plant.

TETs Marinovo #1

11. TETs Marinovo #1 furnished electricity for the city of Dimitrovgrad and for the coal mines north of the city. This power station was

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located in the northern part of the city and was bordered on the east by the Mlada Gwardiya District of Dimitrovgrad, on the west by the Vulkan Asbestos Cement Plant, on the north by the coal mines of the Maritsa Basin, and on the south by the Maritsa River and the Rakovski District of Dimitrovgrad.

12. The power station consisted of two buildings; one was the power plant and the other was a water filtration plant. Source does not know how many workers were employed at this plant.

Lignite Coal Mines in the Dimitrovgrad Area

13. Lignite coal mines were located in the entire area north of Dimitrovgrad. These mines ran from the Cherni Konevo District of Dimitrovgrad and the rail line to Stara Zagora to the Mlada Gwardiya District of Dimitrovgrad, and the highway leading to Stara Zagora. The mines were located in what is called the "Maritsa Basin" (Marishki Baseyn) and supply coal to all plants and power stations in Dimitrovgrad.
14. Bulgarian civilian workers were employed at all of the mines except the Mlada Gwardiya mines, where forced labor was used.

1. Comment: Figures given for this plant on dimensions, location, size of labor force, etc., should be treated with extreme caution.

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